

# Measles Health Alert

2008

**Recent measles outbreaks in California have originated from returning international travelers. Measles is highly contagious. Please protect patients, visitors, and staff!**

## ✓ **Keep an eye out for measles symptoms:**

### **Suspect measles in patients with:**

- fever and rash
- history of international travel in the past 3 weeks or contact with international visitors

**Note:** A history of 2 doses of MMR vaccine does not exclude a measles diagnosis.

### **Prodrome**

- Mild to moderate fever
- Cough
- Coryza
- Conjunctivitis

### **Rash onset**

- Fever spikes, often as high as 104° to 105° F
- Red, maculopapular rash that may become confluent—typically starts at hairline, then face, and spreads rapidly down body
- Koplik's spots (tiny blue/white spots on the bright red background of the buccal mucosa) may be present



## ✓ **Act immediately if you suspect measles:**

- Implement airborne infection control precautions immediately, mask and isolate patient—negative pressure room, if available.
- Permit only staff immune to measles to be near the patient.
- Notify local health department immediately
- Expedite measles serologic testing (IgM and IgG) at a public health lab; use of commercial labs may delay diagnosis.
- Safeguard other facilities: assure airborne infection control precautions before referring patients.
- Do not use any regular exam room for at least 2 hours after a suspected measles patient has left the room.



Visit [www.GetImmunizedCA.org](http://www.GetImmunizedCA.org) for more information